

The Arc of Illinois and The Executive Forum Leadership Conference

June 11 - 12, 2026
In Person at the DoubleTree Hotel in Lisle, IL

Thursday, June 11, 2026

8:30 am Registration, Check In, Continental Breakfast

9:15 am Welcome with Lore Baker, President and CEO of AID, Chair, Executive Forum

9:30 - 11:00 am "Lessons From The Pando Forest; Why Connectedness Is The Root Of Our Strength "
Presented by Alonzo Kelly, Kelly Leadership Group

The second largest organism on the planet is the Pando Forest. This breath taking forest holds a secret that few are aware of and often taken for granted by others. The strength of the forest can be found not on what is visible, but what is happening underground. This forest teaches us the power of connectedness, ecosystems, and collaboration. So goes one tree, so goes the forest. This full participatory discussion will challenge our thinking, invite our engagement, and create a call to action.

11:00 - 11:15 am Break

11:15 am - 12:15 pm State and Federal Legislative Update
with Kim Musheno, Senior Director of Medicaid Policy at The Arc of the United States

12:15 - 1:30 pm Lunch

1:30 - 2:00 pm IDD Navigator
Presented by Samantha Alloway, The Arc of Illinois, Tara May, Aspiritech, and Ann Morris, Little City

2:00 - 2:30 pm "Nothing About Us Without Us" Presented by Rio Goodwin Perez, Going Home Coalition Director, and April McClees, Self-Advocate and Family Transition Program Mentor

Rio and April will discuss REV UP Illinois and the critical role self-advocates play in advocacy efforts. REV UP Illinois works to center and uplift individuals with disabilities so their voices, stories, and visions help steer the direction of the coalition as a whole. This important work is guided by the organizing principle, "Nothing About Us Without Us." Together, they will share how self-advocates and allies can work together to create meaningful change and achieve measurable goals.

2:30 - 3:00 pm Break

3:00 - 4:00 pm "Beyond Traditional Staffing: Remote Support that Transforms Lives"
Presented by Donna Ennis, Jesse Brian McMorris, Dr. Kristen Salkas, Jacqueline Steward, Envision Unlimited, and Kimberly Hill, Rest Assured

Envision Unlimited members and staff will share their experiences developing remote supports in a CILA setting, including a self advocates perspective on his experience in his new home, lessons learned and post placement outcome data.

4:00 - 5:00 pm Hospitality in Suite 117

6:00 pm - Dinner - Maggiano's, Naperville, IL
Meet in the hotel lobby at 5:45 pm for a bus to Maggiano's!

Thank you to our Sponsors!



The Arc of Illinois and The Executive Forum Leadership Conference

Friday, June 12, 2026

8:00 am Continental Breakfast and Registration

9:00 - 9:15 am Welcome, Samantha Alloway, Executive Director, The Arc of Illinois

9:15 - 10:45 am "Don't Worry, Be a Critical Thinker: The Case for Using AI (Actual Intellect) to Lead During Unprecedented Times"

Presented by Colin Seale, thinkLaw

In times of rapid change and uncertainty, leadership requires more than technical expertise—it demands the critical thinking needed to navigate complex, high-stakes decisions with clarity, empathy, and vision. Critical thinking is not a "nice-to-have" skill for a select few; it's the foundation for building policies, strategies, and cultures that honor dignity, promote equity, and drive lasting impact. In today's landscape—where artificial intelligence is reshaping industries and amplifying uncertainty—it's time to prioritize a different kind of AI: **Actual Intellect**. In this engaging and highly practical session, Colin Seale—educator, attorney, and author of *Thinking Like a Lawyer* and *Tangible Equity*—will make the equity and leadership case for centering critical thinking as a non-negotiable skill for courageous leaders and provide personalized, practical, and powerful strategies to seamlessly integrate this into your work.

10:45 - 11:00 am Break

11:00 am - 12:00 pm "Stop Doing It the Hard Way"

Presented by Erik Nelson, Kibu

Your staff are buried in paperwork, handoff notes, and admin tasks that eat hours every shift. There's a better way, and it's not as complicated as you think. This session breaks down how IDD provider organizations are using simple AI tools to cut documentation time, reduce burnout, and give their teams more of what they actually signed up for: time with the people they support.

12:00 - 12:30 pm "The Path Forward" Presented by Samantha Alloway, Executive Director, The Arc of Illinois

Families and providers navigate the IDD system from different vantage points - but they're headed to the same place. This 30-minute session traces those parallel journeys, explores the moments where they intersect, and makes the case for what becomes possible when families and providers move forward as true partners rather than strangers on the same road.

12:30 - 2:00 pm Lunch - Stay and network or take your lunch to go

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ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

Donna Ennis

Donna Ennis is the Senior Vice President of I/DD CILA, In-Home Respite and Home-Based Services at Envision Unlimited. She has a Master's in Social Work from Jane Adams College of Social Work at UIC. Her experience in the field is extensive, having worked with persons across the life span in a variety of programs, including early intervention, CDS, and clinical services. Donna was part of the team at Envision Unlimited that developed host family CILA, SSH Homes, and, more recently, the remote support homes. Donna particularly enjoys opportunities for networking and collaboration with members, families/guardians, other community providers, and referral/funding sources in pursuit of optimal services and supports for persons with I/DD.

Rio Goodwin Perez

Rio (they/them) is an artist, educator, and organizer who is passionate about creating equitable spaces. Rio most recently worked to help develop the Home and Community Program at Arts of Life, an art studio for professional artists with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The Home and Community Program focuses its efforts on creating integrated arts spaces for people with and without disabilities by partnering with local arts centers. Rio previously wrote and designed social justice oriented elementary school curriculums for private schools in the Metro Nashville area.

As an organizer, Rio worked with Freedom Arts Collective, a group of local artists that provided artistic support for the worker's rights organization Worker's Dignity/Dignidad Obrera. They also organized with the Metro Nashville Educators Association on their Community Schools campaign. Rio also has extensive mutual aid organizing experience including leading fundraising and donation drives for families affected by the 2020 earthquakes in Puerto Rico. Rio offers a unique perspective as someone with lived experience as a disabled person. They believe strongly that disability advocacy efforts should be led by disabled people and their goal is to keep these voices at the center of the movement towards de-institutionalization. Their vision for the Going Home Collective is to foster and expand its diverse and resilient network of advocacy, building upon already existing infrastructure. They hope the Coalition will grow its work among communities who are the most marginalized and develop prospective advocates who have a desire to create systems change.

Alonzo Kelly

A dynamic Executive Coach, Professor, 3x Best Selling Author, and Radio Host, Dr. Alonzo Kelly has gained international and global attention as a premier consultant and strategist. Alonzo is recognized as one of the nation's leading experts on leadership development, strategic thinking, planning, and acting which results in individual and organizational goal achievement. He has appeared on America's Premier Experts which airs on major networks across the country including ABC, NBC, CBS, and FOX. Alonzo has served over 1,000 individuals through personal and professional development, delivered training and consulting services to a plethora of Fortune 500 Companies, College and Universities, Foreign Countries (Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, Guam), non-profit organizations, and is consistently retained to be the keynote speaker and facilitator of choice at large and small events across the country.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting, three master's degrees (Public Administration, Human Resource & Labor Relations, Business Administration), and an Honorary PhD in Business & Entrepreneurship, and is currently in the process of earning his second Doctorate in Business Administration.

He serves on the National Board of Directors for the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) representing the State of Wisconsin, the Fire and Police Commission for the City of Howard, the Board of Directors for Family Services of Brown County, and the Women's Fund Grants Team through the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation.

Find more at www.alonzokelly.com

Tara May

Tara started as CEO of Aspiritech in April 2022. Prior to joining Aspiritech, Tara was EVP of Media & Chief Digital Officer at Winsight, as well as VP of Content and Product Strategy for Patch Media. She helped launch 900 hyper-local sites for the AOL network, not to mention a digital reverse-published local news product for the Chicago Tribune.

Tara's career is focused on using technology and product innovation to drive growth. She is a sought-after speaker on user experience and digital transformation. She's overseen large and small teams, with a focus on career development and leading with kindness. She resides in Lake County with her husband and teen and tween children. She is personally committed to embracing neurodiversity in all aspects of work and life.

Jesse Brian McMorris

Jesse is originally from the west side of Chicago and grew up in Cabrini Green. He moved dozens of times as a kid, but eventually found his home in a CILA, where he lived for 20 years. Jesse currently lives in a remote support home with Envision Unlimited. Jesse is an advocate for independent and semi-independent living options. He believes in tailoring the home living environment to an individual's wants and needs. Jesse believes remote supports help him achieve his goal of living independently. Jesse likes basketball, movies, video games, and shopping. He prides himself on being a people

Ann Morris

Ann Morris is Chief of Communications & External Affairs for Little City Foundation. In this role, Ann serves on the executive leadership team and oversees strategic marketing direction, external marketing communications, government affairs, and internal communications.

She and her team bring ongoing news and uplifting stories to Little City's constituencies and surrounding communities while supporting the organization's growth, development, and advocacy goals. Ann's purview includes the website, executive communications, marketing materials, digital content strategy, email marketing, lobbying, legislative affairs, social media, PR/media relations, thought leadership, special events marketing, and employee communications. Ann is also responsible for ensuring a professional and high-impact brand image for the organization. She joined Little City in 2023 as Director of Marketing & Communications, was promoted to VP, and then her current role in 2024.

Prior to joining Little City, Ann was managing director of marketing for Bravanti, a leading global consultancy in executive coaching, leadership development, and career transition, serving C-suite and senior business leaders around the world. Ann was a member of the executive leadership team at Bravanti and oversaw all marketing and sales support strategies and materials. She led a complete digital marketing transformation for the organization, creating an all-new digital footprint and a performance-focused marketing operation that drove business development. She also pioneered original thought leadership and spearheaded a name change and new brand for the organization that achieved double- and triple-digit increases in brand visibility and marketing impact.

Kim Musheno

Kim Musheno is the Senior Director of Medicaid Policy at The Arc of the United States, based in Washington, DC. With nearly 30 years of experience in disability policy, Kim has played a key role in shaping many of the nation's most significant laws affecting people with disabilities, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, IDEA, the Autism CARES Act, and the Rehabilitation Act.

Before joining The Arc, Kim held senior leadership roles at the Autism Society of America and the Association of University Centers on Disabilities. Her deep commitment to this work is also personal—she is a proud family member of an individual with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Erik Nelson

Erik is a technology and innovation leader in the disability services field and currently serves as Vice President of Strategy and Innovation at Kibu. He specializes in the use of AI to improve outcomes, streamline operations, and rethink how support services are delivered. With experience as both a provider and technology leader, he works with organizations across the country on strategy, employment innovation, and the future of human services technology. As the parent of a son with autism, Erik brings both professional expertise and personal perspective to his work, focusing on building systems that are more practical, individualized, and human-centered. Known for his direct and engaging style, he speaks nationally on AI, workforce transformation, and the changing landscape of disability services.

Kristen Salkas

Dr. Kristen Salkas is the Director of Innovation at Envision Unlimited. She earned her PhD in Disability Studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago and brings over 12 years of experience in the disability field. Kristen has published in peer-reviewed journals, spoken at national conferences, and teaches as an adjunct instructor. Passionate about translating research into practice, she is committed to building inclusive systems that center the voices of people with disabilities. When she's not exploring the latest disability research, you'll find her training for her next triathlon.

Colin Seale

Colin Seale was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, where struggles in his upbringing gave birth to his passion for educational equity. Tracked early into gifted and talented programs, Colin was afforded opportunities his neighborhood peers were not. Using lessons from his experience as a math teacher, later as an attorney, and now as a keynote speaker, contributor to Forbes, The 74, Edutopia and Education Post and author of Thinking Like a Lawyer: A Framework for Teaching Critical Thinking to All Students (Prufrock Press, 2020) and Tangible Equity: A Guide for Leveraging Student Identity, Culture, and Power to Unlock Excellence In and Beyond the Classroom (Routledge, May 2022), Colin founded thinkLaw (www.thinklaw.us), a multi-award-winning organization to help educators leverage inquiry-based instructional strategies to close the critical thinking gap and ensure they teach and reach all students, regardless of race, zip code or what side of the poverty line they are born into.

Cost and Registration

REGISTRATION FEES

June 11 - 12, 2026

This Conference will be held **IN PERSON**, only

Registration Fees for Participants are:

Both Days:

Professional Member.....\$ 300.00
 Professional Non Member\$ 365.00
 Consumer/Family\$ 190.00

Single Day Registration:

Professional Member.....\$ 225.00
 Professional Non Member\$ 280.00
 Consumer/Family\$ 140.00

Dinner at Maggiano's:

Additional (not included in registration).....\$ 60.00
 Enjoy family style dinner with group in private dining room. There is limited seating, so be sure to register!

Please complete the attached registration form, fax it to 815-464-5292, then mail the hard copy along with your check to:

The Arc of Illinois
7550 183rd Street
Tinley Park, IL 60477
815-464-1832

You can also register at
<https://www.thearcofil.org/events>

Groups of more than 3 from one agency may take a 10% discount. Registrations can also be faxed to 815-464-5292 or register online at www.thearcofil.org/events

Notice of any accommodations is required two weeks prior to the event. Contact The Arc of Illinois at 815-464-1832.

CANCELATIONS AND REFUNDS

Participants canceling their registration 72 hours in advance will be entitled to a credit or refund, less a \$50.00 administrative cost. No refund or credit will be given for cancellation less than 72 hours before the conference.

LOCATION

Doubletree Hotel
3003 Corporate West Drive
Lisle, IL 60532
630/505-0900

The Doubletree Hotel is conveniently located just North of I-88. Exit I-88 at Naperville Rd. The Arc of Illinois has reserved a block of rooms at the conference rate of \$119/night. Room reservations can be made directly by calling 630/505-0900. Reservations are under the Code "CAI."

Make your reservation now!

Registration Form

EXECUTIVE FORUM LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

June 11 - 12, 2026

One form per person, please print legibly.

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

You can also register at www.thearcofil.org

	FAMILY	MEMBER	NON MEMBER
Both Days	<input type="checkbox"/> \$190	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300	<input type="checkbox"/> \$365
Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/> \$140	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225	<input type="checkbox"/> \$280
Friday	<input type="checkbox"/> \$140	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225	<input type="checkbox"/> \$280
Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60		

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

- _____ Fax form and send check to:
The Arc of Illinois
9980 190th St., Suite C
Mokena, IL 60448
- _____ Check enclosed payable to **The Arc of Illinois**
- _____ **P.O. or State Voucher #**
- _____ **Charge to my Credit Card**

Name as it appears on credit card: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

CVV Code: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Card Holder's signature: _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____